

THE BOMBAY COURIER.

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VOL. 21.]

TUESDAY, 14 MAY, 1833.

[NO. 2241.]

100 RUPEES REWARD.

TWO PLATES, representing the Palace of Odeypoor, and the Lake and Palace of Jugmunder, have been cut out of *Todd's Rajasthan*, while in circulation.—The General Committee of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society offer a reward of 100 Rs. to any person discovering the authors of the theft.

R. C. MONEY,
Secretary.

Bombay, 13th May, 1833.

THE Acting Paymaster of the 4th (or Queen's Own) Light Dragoons, will receive sealed Tenders till the 15th Instant, for a Bill or Bills, amount (277) two hundred and seventy seven pounds, to be drawn upon Messrs. Hopkinson Barton and Knyvett, at 30 day's sight.

The Bidding to be made in Poona Rupees, and in sums not less than fifty pounds.

Kirkee, 4th May, 1833.

TO Let—The house at Colabah now occupied by Mr. ADAM, with entry on 1st June. Apply to Mr. ADAM, Dady's Buildings, in tife Fort.

Bombay, 14th May, 1833.

TO be let—The House at Mazagon recently vacated by Lieutenant Colonel FEARON.

Do. upper part of a House No. 4 in Military Square.

Do. at Colaba, recently vacated by Major DUFFIN.

Apply to CURSETJEE JAMSETJEE.

JUST Published, No. 11 of the QUARTERLY ARMY LIST—Price, 3 Rs. Courier Office, 14th May, 1833.

FOR SALE.—A few remaining copies of the BOMBAY CALENDAR and ALMANAC, printed on English Royal Paper, for the present Year, containing Rules, Regulations, and other matter of local interest not previously published.—Price 6 Rupees per copy.

FOR SALE at the Courier Office, a CODE OF SIGNALS, with a list of Vessels and their corresponding numbers in H. M. Service, and the Commercial Navy of Great Britain, together with those belonging to the Port of Bombay. Price, one Rupee.

FOR SALE at the Courier Office, No. XIX of the Oriental Sporting Magazine.

FOR SALE at the Courier Office, The Oriental Sporting Magazine, from No. 7 to 19, each No. 3 0 0
Blank Powers of Attorney, 0 2 0
Do. Interest Bonds, 0 2 0
Do. Policies, 1 0 0
Do. Bills of Lading, per set, 0 2 0
Do. Respondentia Bonds, 0 2 0
Do. Bills of Exchange, per set, 0 2 0
Plans of the Island, 1 0 0
Traveller's Itinerary, 5 0 0
Insolvent Debtor's Act, 3 0 0

LETTER-PRESS PRINTING, neatly executed upon moderate terms.

FOR PASSAGE TO LIVERPOOL, THE Ship GIPSEY, R. HIGGAT, Commander, to sail the first week in June. Early application is necessary, or her accommodations will be otherwise engaged.

Apply to Captain HIGGAT at DIROM CARTER AND CO'S.

Bombay, 13th May, 1833.

FOR FREIGHT OR PASSAGE TO LONDON,

THE Fine Ship, PALAMBAM, G. WILLIS, (late of the *Captain Cook*) Commander, will be despatched for London about 1st June.—This Vessel has a Poop and good accommodation for Passengers, and carries a Surgeon. Apply to Captain WILLIS at the office of Messrs. WILLIAM NICOL AND CO., where plans of the Cabins may be seen.

Rampart Row, 14th May, 1833.

MILITARY ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

ARRIVALS.
Lieut. R. Lewis, 22nd Regt. N. I. from Cambay.
Capt. E. B. Jackson, Queen's, Royals, from Mahabuleswar.
Capt. R. Foster, Engineers, from Poona.
Brigade Major W. Wyllie, from Mahabuleswar.
Asst. Surgeon J. Ryan, from Tannah.
DEPARTURES.
Asst. Surg. James Boyd, to Tannah.
Capt. W. Smees, 5th N. I. to England.
Asst. Surg. A. Gibson, Vaccinator N. E.D. to Guzerat.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

MARRIAGES.
At Surat, on Tuesday, the 7th Instant, Mr. Charles Auding, Assistant Apothecary, attached to the Revenue Commissioner's Department, to Miss Charlotte Evans, Daughter of Mr. Evans, a Pensioned Deputy Assistant Commissary of Ordnance.
At Broach, on the 4th Instant, Mr. Sub-Conductor F. Ellis, Commissariat Department, to Mary Ann Pelat.
BIRTHS.
At Bombay, on the 2nd Instant, the Wife of Mr. Sub-Conductor S. T. ...
At ... on Saturday the 11th ...

SHIPPING REPORT.

ARRIVAL.
May 13th.—Shis Runnymede, P. Wildridge, Master, from London. Downs 30th December, 1832.

DEPARTURES.
May 11th.—Barque Discovery, G. J. Simmons, Master, to the Persian Gulf.

PASSENGERS.—20 Natives.
—12th.—Brig. Elphinstone, (formerly belonging to the Imam of Muscat,) Mahomed Alley, Naikudali, to the West Coast of Sumatra.

—Ship Aliquis, John McFee, Master, to Liverpool.
PASSENGERS.—Mrs. Ulleythorne and child, Duncan Gibb, Esq. Capt. Smees, Capt. Pelham, Lieut. Pearson.

LIST OF SHIPPING IN THE HARBOUR.

HON'BLE COMPANY'S BRIG OF WAR.—Tigris.
HON'BLE COMPANY'S STEAMER.—Hugh Lindsay.
FREE TRADERS.—Eleanor, Victory, Caledonia, Fortune, Henry Wellesley, Aliquis, Duke of Roxburgh, Hindoostan, Mountstuart Elphinstone, Runnymede, and Gipsy.

COUNTRY SHIPS.—Fattay Eslam, John William, Dare, Maria, Cornwallis, Discovery, Lord Castle-rough, Asia Felix, Cyrene, Caledonia, Allalvie, Fazal Currim, Hind, Sir Charles Malcolm, Hamoodi, Edmonstone, Helen, Sophia, Minerva, Pascoa, Ann, Valasondram, Fattay Rayman, Ann Fells, Louisa, Sullimany, Good Success, Sundaney, and Glenelg.
PORTUGUESE.—Consoliel.

THE COURIER.

TUESDAY, 14 MAY, 1833.

It is hardly necessary, we trust, to remind our readers that the Steam Meeting takes place this day at 12 o'clock. We understand Sir Herbert Compton is to take the chair, and that a very full meeting of Natives as well as Europeans may be expected.

We insert in our paper to-day the fourth letter of Indophilus, nominally upon the Indus Tariff. The writer, however, it will be observed has wandered from the subject which first induced him to come before the public under his present signature, and has entered into a dissertation upon the land revenue system of the Western Provinces of Bengal. He could not perhaps have hit upon any thing better adapted to display his powers. His details of the revenue system of the English Government in India are calculated we think to attract the attention strongly, of those even acquainted with the subject. They display, we are sorry to say, a melancholy picture of the effects of British dominion in the provinces he refers to; but at the same time, coming as they do from one who has evidently all the sources of official information at his command, and who if we are not much mistaken from the tenor of his remarks, accompanied the Governor General in his late tour through central India, it is to be hoped are a presage of a change in the system the ruinous effects of which are so clearly pointed out.

The letter is one of a series, the remainder of which we shall give as opportunity occurs. Owing to its great length we have printed an extra sheet with to-day's paper to prevent its interfering with extracts of more general interest.

We have been much surprised, within the last few days, at finding that no means whatever exist at this presidency for recovering sums due from the estates of deceased officers. This is a fact we should scarcely have credited, had not an instance in which it was exemplified been forcibly brought to our notice.—Before we proceed further, it may be as well perhaps to state that we are not aware whether it is possible on the spot to alter the present mode of proceeding here, or whether an act of the legislature is necessary for the purpose; the anomaly however, which it displays in the general operation of the laws relative to the administration of estates, is too important not to be noticed.

From what we can learn, it appears that, by a decision of the Company's legal advisers, the Ecclesiastical Registrar, who was the person formerly employed in administering to the estates of deceased officers, has, within the last year or two, been prevented from doing so. The consequence is, that the estates in question are now left entirely to the commandant of the corps to which the deceased may have belonged, who, by act of Parliament is allowed only to dispose of an officer's personal effects, and after paying his servants wages and regimental debts, is obliged to remit the balance, when there is any, to the Military Secretary to Government. If an application be made to him for the payment of a claim not included under the heads we have mentioned, he refers the person who makes it to the Secretary, on the ground that he is precluded by the act from attending to it. The Secretary, however, upon being applied to, declines paying it on the same ground, though the funds in his hands may be ever so abundant, and in his turn refers the applicant to the legal representatives of the deceased. These persons, however, after a good deal of trouble and inquiry, he discovers are living in some remote corner of England, or the Continent, or perhaps are not to be found at all, so that this mode of recovering his claim, exclusive of the expense with which it would be accompanied, is little better than none at all.

In the dilemma in which he is now placed, he proceeds perhaps to a solicitor, as the only person remaining who can afford him any assistance and is advised to apply to the Supreme Court for the usual letters of Administration which are granted at home under similar circumstances. The Court, however, it seems, if his claim be an unsettled one, which it in all probability is, will refuse to grant them to him, it

being a rule at this Presidency, contrary to the practice in England, that no creditor can obtain letters of administration except on a settled account, and the consequence is, that he is either obliged to go to the expense, at last, of sending his claim home with the necessary proofs &c. to be collected by an agent in the country in which the representatives of the deceased may reside, or to give up entirely the idea of recovering it, which, unless it be very large, he will probably prefer doing.

Now the effect of this state of things, it is evident is tantamount, in most cases, to a denial of justice to Indian creditors. In saying this however, we do not intend to insinuate that it is the fault of any individuals here that it is so; but it is worthy of remark that, both in Calcutta and Madras, by some means or other, they have a different way of proceeding, the result of which is precisely opposite to what we have described. The intention of the legislature, it is evident, could never have been to exempt the estates of officers from the just liability which those of every other class of people are subject to, and the inference, therefore, must either be that a great blunder has been made in drawing up the act of Parliament, and that the mode of proceeding in Calcutta and Madras is illegal, or that the act has been misconstrued here.—In either case, however, it is to be hoped that measures will be taken by the proper authorities for placing the administration of officer's estates upon a better footing than it is at present. Losses are daily taking place, and the absurdity of continuing to force claimants to send their accounts home to be settled, or to forego their claims, when they could be so much better and more economically examined and discharged here, does not, we presume, require to be pointed out.

CALCUTTA.

(From the Calcutta Quarterly, No. 1.)

MR. ELPHINSTONE.

A great deal of stress has been laid upon Mr. E's conduct in regard to the *deportation* of Mr. Fair, the editor of the *Bombay Gazette*, and he has on that account been charged with truckling to the Judges of the Supreme Court, and been classed with his friend and school-fellow Mr. Adam, &c. &c. The facts of Mr. Fair's case have never been clearly stated, or much of the prejudice arising out of Mr. E's proceeding would long since have been dissipated. We are, however, in possession of some data connected with this business, and shall hold our sketch imperfect if the refutation it contains be not offered.

Mr. Fair, it will be remembered, was Editor of the *Bombay Gazette*, and, in that capacity, published a report of certain proceedings in the Supreme Court, the chief feature of which report was, that the barristers were made to talk good law, and perhaps good sense, while Sir C. Chambers and Sir E. West, were furnished with speeches containing neither law nor sense.

There were two ways of dealing with Mr. Fair for this offence. The Judges might have had him brought up for contempt of court, and have dealt with him, accordingly. But this involved a position of affairs repugnant to men of liberal minds. Neither Sir E. W. nor Sir C. C. cared to sit in judgment in a case in which they were to be at once prosecutors, witnesses and arbiters; they therefore constituted the government of the Presidency, the judge in the matter—supplied the necessary evidence—which went to repudiate the language ascribed to them in the report—and awaited the issue; declaring themselves content to receive an apology from the editor, for his misrepresentations. The government, whose bounden duty it was to uphold the dignity of the Supreme Court, called on Mr. Fair for his apology. Mr. Fair, we have reason to know, was ready enough of himself to make the necessary *amende*, sensible as he was of the penalties, which awaited contumacious conduct. But here lies the *cream* of the business. The obnoxious report was the production of one of the parties, who had been suspended by Sir E. West for the insulting memorial addressed him some months previously. It was important to the *clique* to maintain the integrity of the report—in other words to annoy the judges and preserve a record of their folly. Mr. Fair was therefore assured, that the report was correct and was borne out in this assurance by the testimony of other parties present in the court. To this assurance was combined a vague promise of support to Mr. Fair under all the circumstances that might arise out of his firmness, and this it was which induced Mr. Fair to adhere to his declaration, that the report was a correct one. Surely, admitting the real reporters to have believed in their consciences, that nothing had been set down "in malice," Mr. Fair might safely enough have taken the Judge's words, that they did not utter such and such sentiments? If A purposes to inform the world, that he thinks *black is white*, and B reports that A called it *blue*, it is much more probable, that B should have made a mistake in his report than A in his declaration, seeing that A never held the notion ascribed to him, and that reporting, even by short hand, has not yet reached perfection?

Several opportunities were given Mr. Fair to recant his injudicious assumption, but he did not avail himself of them, and became, by his transmission to England, (the only means of pu-

nishment in Mr. Elphinstone's hands) a willing sacrifice to the schemes of a faction and his own foolish obstinacy. Mr. Fair subsequently brought an action against Mr. E. on the latter's return to England, but was defeated on a technical objection. It would have been curious to have seen the grounds on which Mr. Fair intended to have insisted on his right to damages.

That the imperious obligation on Mr. Elphinstone was under to act as he did in this case, was to him a subject of great pain, can be fully testified by those who know him best. He had a high respect for the liberty of the subject and resisted on more than one occasion the efforts of gentlemen "high up in the service" to deport respectable "interlopers." He was ever anxious to uphold officers in the discharge of their duties, but he never considered it his province to chastise private offences while the law provided a separate remedy. Mr. Elphinstone is now in retirement—limited in his private fortune, for he was too liberal and disinclined to avail himself of the means of wealth presented in his various offices, he passes the evening of his days in travelling about his native country and in visiting different parts of the continent of Europe. He evinces no desire to take any further part in public affairs, but readily affords the aid of his valuable counsel when applied to, and does not cease to feel great interest about the affairs of a country where he spent his best days, and to which he was so large and constant a benefactor.

Our recent comments upon the case of Mr. Fair, at Bombay, are noticed to-day in the *Hurkaru*.

We insert the article, for the purpose of shewing that we differ from our contemporary in some of his facts, as well as in our estimation of the character of Sir Edward West. We believe the *Hurkaru* is right in assuming that Mr. Warden, then Chief Secretary to Government, as also at the time one of the proprietors of the *Bombay Gazette*; but his property therein was of small value compared with his interest in the *Bombay Courier*, in which he had long held a fifth share, yielding an income of 5 or 6 thousand rupees, and valued at 40,000 rupees, and in which, about that time or soon afterwards, he purchased another fifth share. If therefore any influence was exerted by him over the Press at Bombay, it would naturally attach to the *Courier*, rather than to the *Gazette*; for the *Courier* had also Mr. Morgan, the Company's Solicitor, and another high public officer on its proprietary list, and every body knows that in local politics the two papers took opposite sides. But never was there a greater error than the impression, which has prevailed both here and with the Court of Directors, that Mr. Warden and his colleagues in office, who were newspaper proprietors, were in the habit of meddling with the Press. The clearest proof of the contrary is the fact, that the editorship of the *Courier* was held for two years by Mr. William Nicol, whose politics generally, and whose party feelings in the Supreme Court squabbles, were quite in opposition to those of Mr. Warden, and two, if not three, of his co-proprietors; and yet, when Mr. Nicol tendered his resignation, he received a complimentary letter from them full of regrets. Again, we find it asserted that the *Gazette* "was notoriously the Government organ." Now, if either of the papers could be so designated, it was the *Courier*, not because the larger interest of that paper was held by Government men, nor because its printing contract with Government, the source of nearly all its large profits, would tend to make it so, but chiefly because the Editor's tory principles made him a voluntary supporter of authority. Another mistake is the supposition that Mr. Warden and the Members of Council were one and the same in their sentiments. It is known that his views on many subjects widely differed from those of Mr. Elphinstone. Both were liberal men, and both very popular too and most deservedly so; but while the former had his private friendships with some of those whom Sir Edward had made his enemies, Mr. Elphinstone studiously avoided any collision with that functionary, and was not at all compromised by private partialities in the quarrel between the Bench and the Bar; and certainly it cannot be said, that any newspaper Editor, or any man but himself, was ever the organ of Mr. Elphinstone's sentiments. The very sensitive disposition of Sir Edward West led him to imagine insult and disrespect on sundry occasions, and to regard in this light the neutrality of the Governor, to whom he actually sent a list of persons whom he desired to be excluded from the *Parell* parties when he (Sir Edward) should be invited; and for some time he absented himself therefrom, lest his eyes should be offended by their accidental presence. This, by the way, was not very dignified in a British Judge. But Mr. Elphinstone, with equal tact and good temper, never changed his deportment to Sir Edward West, until, some time after the affair of Mr. Fair, he found himself compelled, by repeated annoyances in his public capacity, to appeal against them by a strong and detailed representation to the home Authorities.

Our contemporary says "the *Courier* might have spared its sneer at liberal Judges." We would never sneer at any thing liberal: our object was to mark the misapplication of the epithet in Calcutta to persons whose character was any thing but liberal. Sir Charles Cham-

Even this is not all. As if the greatest uncertainty which was perhaps ever known in the history of taxation were not sufficient, the members of the Special Commission—now rendered of general applicability and far more uncertain operation, by their transfer to all the Commissioners both in the Upper and Lower provinces—have completed the unsettling of a great mass of property which had been sold by auction at various periods on the faith of the Government for the realization of the public revenue; and, to establish beyond all question our ingenuity in banishing from the country almost the idea of property in the land, the proceedings under the rent-free Regulations (which are carried on more or less in each zillah according to the taste and opinion of the Officer in charge for the time being) have rendered completely insecure another section, including a large proportion of the most fertile land in the country. Landed property held under this tenure, generally speaking, shews more improvement than any other, not only because certain descriptions of it were invariably respected by the native Governments, but because the whole of the surplus rent derived from improvement has devolved upon the proprietor. Yet it has now for the most part been rendered unsaleable and a total stop has been put to its improvements, from the apprehension which is entertained of the proceedings in progress, having in view the resumption of that portion of this inheritance favored by property, which is held under an invalid tenure. Of course, it will be said, such a serious evil would not have been inflicted upon the country without a certainty of recovering a large amount of public revenue which has been improperly alienated. This is a question which I cannot answer; but I have heard it rumoured, that the resumptions which have hitherto been made, have not even paid the expense of the European and native establishment employed in making them! Of one thing however, I am quite certain, that even if they do yield something beyond the expense which must be incurred in securing it, any increase of revenue which can be obtained in this way will be far less than what might be derived, from at once declaring all this class of tenures private property, either with or without a low uniform rate of taxation, guaranteed not to be increased for thirty years, and then only in case the necessities of the State are shewn to require it. A large amount of property scattered throughout every province in our Dominion would thus be established in security and would afford a secure arena on which capital might find place to carry on its fructifying operations. The increase of production and consumption resulting from this, would under the present, and still more under an improved system of indirect taxation, yield a far greater amount of revenue than can ever be expected from the net proceeds of the resumptions after deducting the expense of making them; and would moreover call down a blessing upon the Government from the lips of our fellow subjects who are interested in the security of these tenures. As nobody's rights but their own can possibly be interfered with by this measure, there is nothing to prevent its immediate adoption by Government; and let it not be supposed that the British Administration of British India requires the Special Commission to keep the rent-free Regulations in countenance, and requires them both, to countenance a system of taxation infinitely more destructive to the natural increase of the bounties of nature than the withering blight or the all-devouring locust! They are all the same, and all the same rule.

Our good whether such

Agra and Delhi Papers—the first organs that have ever yet stood forth truly to represent the interest of upper India—say whether they are so or not. Let any Collector whose mind has not been employed in threading the perplexed and tortuous intricacies of Regulation VII. of 1822, till he has become habitually incapable of coming to a straightforward opinion, say whether they are so or not? Let the few Europeans who have been suffered to hang on to the land by still more precarious tenure than the natives themselves, and any Christian Mahomedan or Hindoo Native who reads the papers say—Can there be said to be any property in the land west of Mirzapoor? Do the circumstances with which the possession of land is attended, convey that security which the term implies? Is there a sufficient inducement for Capitalists to purchase land for the purpose of investing their funds in improvements, or do the existing landholders of any description, find it for their interest to do so? If these questions are answered in the affirmative, all is right; but if not, the primary and most prolific source of all wealth both to the Government and to the people is paralyzed; landed property does not exist as far as any practical purpose is concerned; and the condition of society if it is not positively deteriorating, is at least at a standstill.

When it may be asked, is this state of things to have an end? When is the creation of landed property, which is generally the first step in the progress of society, to take place? Our present truly honest and benevolent Governor General has done all he can, and has passed his fiat for a twenty years Lease of the land tax which, in other words, is establishing property in the land to the extent of the security which the limitation of the land tax for this period implies. But what is this? The amount of the land tax upon each estate has been left to the discretion of every Collector and Deputy Collector; and under them, to the discretion of their Assistants and Tehsildars; and it depends entirely upon the accident of the qualifications and disposition of a great variety of individuals, how much property the landed interest are to have left to them, or whether they are to have none at all. If the Collector happens to be deficient in experience, judgment, or benevolence, the agriculturists not only stand a good chance of losing all the profit of their former improvements, but their land itself may become worthless to them. It may cease to be productive property, and they may be forced to abandon it, as thousands have been in the Southern Division of the Delhi territory and Bundelcund. It is a melancholy fact, but yet it is perfectly true, that the taxation of the land has in many of our provinces been carried to such a height as to force our subjects to have recourse to that last resource against oppression which consists in voluntary exile; and having rendered it impossible for them to live at home except in jail or by the piler of their own crops, our Collectors have been known to be so hard hearted as to apply to the political Authorities to force the native States to surrender the refugees.

Some of our friends may reply, that the Boards and the Government will prevent the Collectors from carrying the land tax beyond its due limits. The instances in which over taxation by the Collectors has already occurred, are well known; and let it be said in how many of them the Boards and the Government have unconsciously approved of and lauded these proceedings; and in how many it has corrected and disapproved of them. I have myself known an Officer who had doubled and even trebled the land tax of pargannas beyond what they had been under the former Native Government, receive a high meed of praise for his profound revenue knowledge and the accuracy and extent of the details exhibited in his reports; and what do you suppose was the result? The first year the tax was paid from the household property and agricultural cattle of the people, and the second year they ran away by thousands into foreign States and the assessment of course could not be realized. The result then, was that the officer got praise and promotion; the Government was obliged to allow a permanent reduction of the new assessment to the amount of about a lakh of rupees, with a much worse prospect of realizing the remainder, owing to the destruction of agricultural capital and the demoralization of the minds of the cultivators, who with a view to share in the remissions often threw their lands out of cultivation, even in instances where the assessment was not really excessive. The people, the poor people—while the author of their grievances was enjoying his palmy state of prosperity, half clothed, half fed, harassed by the importunities of the revenue officers, haunted by the gloomy apprehension of not being able to provide the means of subsistence for their wives and families, dragged on a wretched existence in their comfortless homes unheard of and unpitied, unless they sought some respite if it can be so called in exile. This is not taxation but confiscation. This is not the just demand of the State upon the people for the means of carrying on the business of Government, but it is a revenue persecution, a Collectorial crusade. For the sake of the peace of the officer whom I picture to you I trust that his conviction that he was doing right was as complete as that of Sir Simon de Mountfort; though I think Sir Simon's plan of killing outright (I allude to his expedition against the Albigenses) was the most humane of the two, since it is better to put people out of pain at once than to live on after having deprived them of the means of living happily. Looking at the officer to whom I refer, I have often wondered that God should have intrusted to any individual such a power over the welfare of his creatures. Such unlimited influence over their destiny, such a fearful discretion for rendering thousands either happy or miserable seemed to be a power which ought to have been retained in the hands of an Omnipotent Providence itself. Such a power is not possessed by the perial Parliament of Great Britain, nor by any of the Governments of Europe or America. A tenth part of what this officer did, would have made the people of England rise up as one man and overthrow their Government. It was several years before I could thoroughly persuade myself that these things were so. I could with difficulty bring myself to believe that our Government was yet in such a crude and imperfect state; and so totally inefficient for providing security to the subject, not against foreigners or fellow subjects, but against itself. It appeared to me astonishing, that such a power should be delegated to any individual, and that our people's happiness should be made so completely dependent upon the contingency of any man's temper and judgement.

The apparent quiescence of the people under their sufferings, when I knew that a much smaller degree of oppression had often roused them into open opposition under the native Governments, also surprised me at first, but this has since been sufficiently accounted for to my mind. The neighbouring Provinces belonging to us, though subject to the paralyzing influence of the annual settle-

ment, had much less actual oppression to complain of; combination therefore, was out of the question; and the nature of our Military power is sufficiently well known for the inhabitants of a single province to feel conscious that their unconnected rising could only end in their defeat and punishment.

The most astonishing thing after all, however, was the ignorance and apathy which prevailed upon the subject in European society. Besides the immediate successor of the Officer concerned, few, I believe, knew any thing of the matter; and after the Government had been with some difficulty persuaded that over-assessment had really taken place, and the *jumma* had been reduced so as to leave the people the necessary means of subsistence, the affair sank into oblivion. The causes of this remarkable obscurity in which the great interests of India are involved, will form a very important topic for consideration hereafter; but in the mean time the fact is undoubted. The Agra paper has just shown us that a system of open and undisguised piracy has been pursued for the last eighteen months on the river *Jumma* between Agra and Allahabad, without any representation having reached Government from any quarter, and without the European public being in the least aware of it. This trade amounts to at least 3 crores of rupees a year, which is equal to the whole trade carried on between France and England, and a great variety of native mercantile houses at Agra, Allahabad, Mirzapore, and Ghazepore are engaged in it. The very first act of piracy committed on the trade between England and France, would have raised an outcry which would have enforced redress; but in this country a system of river piracy has been carried on for eighteen months on one of the most important of our internal communications, without any extraordinary sensation being created, and without the fact of any depredation having been committed—being even known in European Society! Besides what was carried off, the most undisguised and wilful destruction of property has been committed, and several tobacco boats have been set on fire by the pirates with a view to scramble for their contents.

Those who believe that I have drawn an exaggerated picture of the nature of the power of a revenue Collector, and of the extent to which it is possible for him to abuse it, would do well to recollect this. The river piracy on the Agra and Allahabad trade was far more central, and affected a much more influential class of people, than the revenue oppressions of which I have been speaking; and yet until it was brought forward by the Agra paper 18 months after it commenced, the European public knew nothing at all about it. How therefore can we be surprised that the misrule which has taken place in a distant but extensive province should not be better known? I used to wonder that a hand which had made thousands miserable should ever receive the warm press of affection; and I never behold his self complacent smiles responded to by an admiring circle who, rejoiced in his prosperity, without my mind involuntarily recurring to the thousand of women and children whose pittance had been pitilessly confiscated by him to swell the Government *jumma*; but I know better now! The reform which requires to be worked in India is fearfully vast. It is the people here, and not merely the Government, which requires to be reformed. Public feeling in India has still to require susceptibility and strength; susceptibility to perceive, and strength and courage to denounce delinquency and dereliction of duty, under whatever form and in whatever person they may appear. Acts are as yet not always called by their proper names, even by the highest Authorities. A mist of obscurity is still suffered to hang on the bounds of good and evil, which it is the duty of all honest men to combine to dissipate. The improved moral sense of a majority of the society itself, or what is the same thing, of a minority which by fearless activity and perseverance in a good cause is able to influence the majority, is what we must look to as the great source of all improvement. The individuals at the head of affairs may or may not possess the qualities which would fit them to become uncompromising and impartial judges of what ought to be considered the standard of morality. It is a change upon which no society, that is capable of forming an opinion for itself, ought to depend. We must hold our consciences in our own keeping, and trust to the progressive improvement of the moral feeling of the society itself to secure a majority on the side of virtue. The honest and corrupt, the good administrators and oppressors have hitherto been viewed much in the same light in Indian society; however—things are even now better than they were!

Some of my readers may think, that the picture which I have drawn, of what is commonly called a *pukka* Revenue Officer, is ideal. Let them think so; but in others I am sure it will have the effect of awakening in their minds recollections of events similar to those described.

Let me ask once more, how long these things are to continue? How long is that most important of all the functions of the Sovereign or Legislative power, which consists in laying the property of the people under contribution, to be entrusted to every Collector throughout the Upper Provinces?—Its operation for the benefit or detriment of the community, being thus left to be determined by the chances of the temper and qualifications of each of a great number of individuals? As Englishmen, we can have no excuse for such conduct. From our earliest childhood, we have been imbued with a knowledge of the principle, that taxation is the most important of all the powers of Government; that it is the one of which the use is liable to the greatest temptation, and the abuse attended with the most certain and palpable evil to the community. So well are we aware of this, that we dare not confide it to other hands than our own; and our King, and the united Council of our Aristocracy, so far from being considered safe depositaries of this awful trust, are not allowed to meddle with it in the smallest degree. But in England, the interests for which we have to consult are our own. Here they are those of our poor, Indian fellow subjects, who have no voice in the decision; and a much greater power of taxation than has ever been exercised even by our own Representatives is left to the chances of the discretion of each of a great variety of separate individuals. This noble realm which has been entrusted to us in so wonderful a manner, demands far other treatment at our hands. Our regard for our national reputation—our duty to our East Indian fellow subjects, and our duty to God, demand it.

Ask the Collectors themselves, whether they would not prefer to be relieved from the exercise of the power which has been entrusted to them, of fixing the rate and amount of the taxation of the Western Provinces. Whatever some youths may say, I venture to assert, that nobody who has had any lengthened experience in the business of taxation, will desire to retain the power, or feels any confidence in his successful administration of it. I have always observed, that those who have been most

successful in its exercise, entertain the most lively sense of the awful responsibility which is vested in them; and best appreciate the extent of danger to the community, arising from a possible error of judgment in any one of the numerous separate assessments of the rate and amount of the Government revenue, which they are called upon to make; while those whose settlements, as they are called, but really confiscations—of the entire property of whole provinces, will ever remain a blot on the page of Indian history, consider themselves, and were considered by the Government and the public, *first rate Revenue Officers*. God preserve India from any more first rate Revenue Officers!

The power of taxing, not in proportion to the actual necessities of Government, but in proportion to the supposed abilities of the people to pay, is a power which could not be exercised by a select assembly of the most learned and qualified men procurable, without the most serious danger of encroaching upon capital, and drying up the sources of production, while the principle itself, even where it is applied with the greatest judgment, and adapted in the most happy manner to the exact means of the people to pay, is entirely destructive to that security of property which is necessary for the progressive improvement of a country. What therefore must be the operation of this principle, when its exercise is entrusted to the single discretion of I know not how many Collectors and Deputy Collectors, and Assistants, and Tehsildars and Peishcars; for it is impossible that the Collector can do and see all himself, and he must depend more or less upon the reports which he receives from the Officers who have been placed in authority under him.

If it is difficult for the Collector to form a correct opinion as to the amount of taxation which each particular village community can afford to pay; it is still more so for the Government. The Collector has all the complicated affairs of every department of the administration of its own country, and the management of its relations with foreign states to attend to, besides; and the share of its regard, which it can give to the assessment of each separate village, is therefore incomparably small. The Collector has to assist his judgment, the evidence of the flourishing, stationary, or declining state of the village, under the former assessment; a comparison of its condition with that of neighbouring villages of about the same population and extent, and capability of the soil; and the opinions of neighbouring landholders, all of which are data far more worthy of dependence than any calculations which can be made of produce, rent, and profit. The Government, on the contrary, has not one of these helps, and it stands besides, under the amazing disadvantage for the formation of a correct opinion,—of having to decide on a ready prepared case made out to prove a particular point. On such unsatisfactory grounds, and with no time to consider them such as they are, how is it possible for the Government to be able to check the proceedings of all the Collectors, and separately to fix the proper amount of assessment to be laid on each village in the country? Can we be surprised, that it has over and over again been made the dupe of our "Crack Revenue Officers," which term has been found to mean those who can write the longest reports and mystify the Government most completely, by entering into detailed calculations of capital, produce, population, rent, burying grounds, high roads, &c. The Parliament of England, and all its committees think they have ample employment in assessing the taxes upon the whole kingdom as a body, upon the simple and unerring basis of the absolute necessities of administration. The Government of this country flatter themselves, that they can with advantage go through the process of making a separate assessment for each separate village in the country, upon the impracticable and never-accurately-to-be-attained basis, of what the people can afford to pay; the slightest deviation from which on the wrong side, inevitably involves whole communities in ruin. We have seen what the means are which government has at its disposal for the performance of its awfully dangerous task. Has it no better means for checking the proceedings of the Collectors in the formation of the twenty years settlement? And do these constitute the sum of the security which the landed interest of the country has to look forward to at the gradually approaching termination of that arrangement?

Under this system it cannot be said, that improvement will be taxed as much as ever, for the Indian land revenue system does not increase in the ratio of taxation but of confiscation. Whether the land be improved or unimproved, the rates of taxation, though varying every where and ever liable to be increased or diminished at the discretion of the Collector, are always calculated so as to deprive the landholder of the whole rent. What paid under the former settlement one rupee as land dependent on the rain for successful cultivation, will now pay three or even four rupees as land irrigated from wells or canals, and therefore capable of producing without fail, the richest kind of crops. What is this but the confiscation of improvement? It is not taxation. Under this system it is, generally speaking, better not to improve. The non-improver stands a chance of being as well off as he was before, while the improver is sure of being worse off. He is sure of being reduced from a state of comparative affluence to one of poverty, and he stands a chance of not even getting back the capital which he had invested.

Lord William Bentinck—to his honor be it said—has done all he can and has given orders for a fifteen or twenty years lease. But what is this? Has the principle of the system been changed? Have the people been given to understand that they are not to undergo the settlement torture again, twenty years hence? Have they been told that they will not be liable to have the fruit of the accumulated industry of twenty years taken from them at the end of that period? and if they have not—how are improvements to be made—how is capital to be invested—and how are the great resources of this country to be developed? Every year, as the periodical disorganization of landed property draws nigh, matters will become worse and worse; and instead of the pleasing certainty of enjoying the results of his improvements, the proprietor will have a daily nearing prospect of land which was before dry, being taxed at the rate of well-land; of land which was before well-land being taxed at the rate of canal-land, and of the land which at the period of the former settlement was taxed at the rate of the coarse grains being taxed at the rate of the richer products which his capital and skill had immediately fitted it to produce; and in short, of every conversion of land into a state calculated for raising a greater value, having the whole rent imposed upon it which reduces land in every state of improvement to exactly the same level in respect to profitable returns. As the recurrence of each new assessment absorbs the whole rent, industry and sloth are put upon the same footing.

Whether the land is improved or unimproved, the whole rent is taken away, and all that is left to the agriculturist, are the ordinary and necessary profits which are the same upon every kind of produce, and without which the land must be thrown out of cultivation.

To say nothing of the other excellencies of the whole-rent system, and of the certainty of its leading to arbitrary views on the part of Government from its teaching them to consider the whole rental of the country as a sort of property which they can appropriate without any inconvenience to its interests, what must we think of a scheme which assigns to a host of different revenue officers the impracticable task of finding the true point between rent and profits which the farmers, where they are also proprietors, (as they so generally are in the upper provinces,) do not themselves know; and yet the slightest deviation from which point on the side of profits, at once ruins the agriculturists, and puts an immediate stop to productive industry! We have seen this take place, not by single estates, but by whole provinces, and as long as the whole-rent or *quanti* possible principle is adhered to, a liability or rather a powerful tendency to this destructive result cannot but exist. However Government may preach moderation, the *auri sacra fames* will always incline to disturb the equilibrium.

I have heard of a Collector imposing a fancy tax upon the ground occupied by the buildings of an Indigo Factory fixed entirely at his own discretion, at a rate far superior to those which are charged upon cultivated land. Pray let the disciples of Mills say whether this was a tax upon rent or profits? The cultivated land attached to the Indigo Factory, it must be remembered, was also charged at the usual rates, and taking the aggregate tax on the two together—both cultivated and uncultivated—did it merely constitute a tax upon the rent of the land, or did it also trench upon the profits of the Indigo concern calculated at the ordinary rate of profits of the Factories in the neighbourhood? Do you suppose that the Collector to whom the discretion of imposing this amount of taxation was left, knew whether it would really encroach upon profits or not? and, if it ultimately happened not to do so was it from any foresight on his part or merely hap-hazard? The probability is, that the only idea which occurred at the time to the Collector's mind was that the Indigo Factory was description of crop which could not be cut down and secreted like the ordinary grains, and that it was therefore a very convenient object of taxation.

It is not on Indigo Factories alone that a fancy tax is liable to be imposed. It is notorious that in assessing every village community in the country, the Collector is ordered to take into consideration the general condition of the people, which means their houses, cattle, clothes, and property of every description. This basis of taxation is a particularly favourite one where a village or district happens to have fattened under the management of a Jaggedar or native Chief; and under these circumstances our Collectors have often been tempted to excessive amount of taxation, forgetting altogether that the flourishing condition of the village or district was entirely owing to the former low rate of taxation on the land that the inhabitants had no other fund from which they could pay the tax, except the net produce of the land, and that when the tax once exceeded what that net produce amounted to, it must soon end in their utter ruin. In such cases the result has always been, as might naturally have been expected. The first year the inhabitants paid the tax by parting with their ready money and jewels. The second year they were obliged to sell their cattle and other agricultural capital, and the third year they all ran away, and owing to the destruction of agricultural capital, the tax was obliged to be reduced to a rate considerably below what they could have afforded to pay in the first instance. This cruel, demoralizing, anti-social process, has been gone through, not in one, but in a great variety of cases; both by villages and districts, both in our old provinces and in recently acquired Jaggers.

Before a tax is imposed equal to the whole rent, a *Rentmeter* must be invented: for the imperfect and varying capabilities of the human mind have been found by experience to fall very far short of the accuracy which such an instrument ought to possess, consistently with the most ordinary regard for the security of the people. According to the present mode of applying it, whether it is a tax on the general condition of the people, or in other words upon Indigo factories, houses, cattle, jewels, clothes, &c. or whether the Collector contents himself with a more sober calculation of the probable produce of each particular description of land under an average of seasons, dividing it to the best of his judgment into rent and profits, the most ample experience derived from our revenue operations in various parts of the Country, proves that there will always exist a very serious danger that the exact measure of rent will be exceeded, and the necessary profits of cultivation be encroached upon. If, by a supernatural enlargement of the powers of the human intellect, we could obtain a correct knowledge of the productive qualities of different kinds of soil for raising different kinds of produce—if we could know beforehand what kind of season will occur during the continuance of the lease, and the relative effect which each will have upon the different kinds of crops—if we were able to form an exact estimate of the amount both of capital and skill possessed by the agriculturists, of the degree in which they will choose to apply them to the different kinds of crops, and the effects which they will produce upon each when so applied—if we knew the price which each kind of produce will bear during the continuance of the lease, and were able to form an exact estimate of the habitual wants of the different castes of agriculturists, in order to be able to judge what must be considered as their necessary profits—if we knew all this we might then impose a tax calculated at the whole rent without fear of trenching upon profits, or in other words, ruining the people and causing society to retrograde.

This admirable tax is in fact, an impossibility. It is a desideratum never to be attained. Under the influence of the slightest miscalculation on the wrong side—which must be continually occurring—it makes society enter upon a retrograde course, and even when calculated with the utmost nicety, it effectually prevents its advancing. How small is the sum of improvement which can be effected, when it is known that Government and not the improver will derive the entire benefit after a certain number of years? Who would think of building houses or factories when the revenue, by means of which alone they can be inhabited with comfort and respectability, or worked with profit—is liable to be suddenly abstracted at the end of a given period? But I have sufficiently dwelt upon this part of the subject already, and enough has been said to show

that the present system of land tax when most accurately calculated, prevents society from improving, and the moment it diverges from the imaginary point which separates rent from profits and trenches in the least upon the necessary profits of agriculture—ruins our subjects and makes the social frame positively deteriorate.

What important benefit therefore, will be conferred upon the Country by the 20 years lease as it is called? though, for every practical purpose it will be a lease only for the number of years which remain unexpired, and which of course will diminish every year until we come again to the period when the insecurity will be sufficiently intense to make the country languish and fall off under its influence—when wells will again be filled up and coarser grains resorted to, to the exclusion of the more valuable products, in order to obtain a favourable rate of taxation. After the first year, this boasted twenty years lease will only be a lease of 19 years; after the second year it will be a lease of 18 and so on, till we come to our old friends the ten and five years leases; and at last it will find its climax in the legal dissolution of property at the end of the appointed period. Thus each year will decrease the motives for improving the land, and increase the temptation to over-crop and exhaust, and at last, to throw it out of cultivation, retaining only a small portion to provide the means of subsistence till the renewal of the lease. This is an arrangement which reverses the order of providence, and instead of allowing society to pursue its natural course of improvement, makes it retrograde by perpetually recurring cycles of ever increasing insecurity, the baneful effects of each of which increases in exact proportion to the decrease of its duration.

Is the principle then in the least altered, or has any pledge been given to people that we shall not continue to take all we can by successful drains upon the country, to the utter destruction of all security of property and the prevention of the accumulation of productive capital? The only difference between the present and the former plans appears to be, that while we have hitherto allowed the people short intervals of security of 5 or 10 years upon which to form their plans of life and raise the standard of their expectations of providing for themselves and families before these plans became liable to be destroyed and these expectations to be blasted by the paralyzing visitation of the collector—so now twenty years will be allowed to enable them to become still more habituated to an improved condition in life, and to raise their hopes still higher, that their degradation may be proportionally greater—like the tortoise borne aloft by the vulture, only to be dashed with greater violence on the rugged rock. The goose has pined and wasted on the scanty supplies of nourishing food which have hitherto been afforded her, and it has therefore been determined that she shall be fattened for an approaching feast. Poor silly, silent Goose that she is! but yet she will begin to speak for herself before the 20 years elapse, unless we anticipate her words and remove the cause of her just complaints. By God's help this shall be done. There are yet some British hearts and sound judgments which have been thoroughly warped and distorted by the impracticable intricacies of the revenue system attempted to be imposed upon the country by Regulation VII of 1822, and who, notwithstanding the authority of great names, have yet the courage and constancy to maintain their conviction of the truth of those grand principles, the simple and sincere observance of which has mainly contributed to the rise and progress of civilized societies. There have been other and greater names which have commanded authority in different ages of the world, but the universal sense of mankind has ultimately prevailed over the principles advocated by them or enforced by their example; and nothing is now left of them but splendid and instructive examples of talents misapplied! The illusion has been dissipated, and their *splendida pecunia* have been detected and exposed!

Your's,
INDOPHILUS.

SYDNEY.

The defalcations in the Colonial Chest are still the prevailing topic. And well may they be so; for who can say where they shall end—or where they had their beginning? The accounts of the Treasury must be a very chaos of confusion. After much of well-grounded suspicion, the dawn of delinquency appears; the Treasurer "absents himself;" a batch of Commissioners, or a Committee—we forget how the Gazette ran—is nominated to perform his duties; and the sum of £8000 is discovered to be deficient—A few days elapse and a further sum of £3000 is found minus. What still further sums are deficient—is our anxious inquiry?

And yet the accounts of the Treasury should be very simple—not a dealer in our town but who has more complicated accounts. Then how comes it this uncertainty as to the extent of abstraction? When the question becomes, were the accounts last audited? Presuming—and we only presume for argument's sake, for we doubt not the truth is opposed to the assumption—that all was correct at the date up to which the Treasury accounts underwent the ordeal of Audit; it cannot surely be difficult to ascertain from the subsequent receipts and disbursements of the Treasury—the knowledge of both of which we imagine is attainable—what sum ought to be in the Chest. What really was in, when the Commissioners first took the Chest into custody, was unfortunately too much a matter of physical certainty.

Conceiving then that there should have been no difficulty in discovering the extent at all events of the recent defalcation, we feel some impatience at the absence of an authenticated document from the Government, that shall apprise the Colony of the full amount of the deficiency; of proceedings that are to be instituted for its recovery; and especially of the course which is to be followed with respect to the offending party. We can assure the Government, that the Colony is in a state of anticipation in this matter, which it will be for their own reputation not to balk. Hints are broadly given, in the propriety of which we are desirous not to believe. We always are desirous—and this will always be seen—to repose confidence in Authority: we would always, as a duty, presume it honest, until the contrary should be manifest: But there are times when public confidence, ceasing to be a passive virtue, becomes an active and prolific vice.

LATEST EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

(Received Overland.)

LONDON.—JANUARY 30.

In the Insolvent Debtors' Court yesterday, the Rev. Heaton Champion de Crespigny came up for final examination. The case stood adjourned for the production of further accounts, and that certain abstracts of annuities granted by the Rev. petitioner, on his livings at Stock Doyle and Neathead, near Oundle, might be filed. An inventory had been obtained of the wearing apparel of Mrs. de Crespigny, and it was stated by Mr. Cook, who supported the insolvent, that the surplus of the amount allowed by the statute would be paid into Court. The Chief Commissioner pronounced judgment. The insolvent had expended a somewhat large sum of money not long since in a manner that could not be justified. In May last he had a considerable sum in his possession; he did not distribute it, as was his duty, among his creditors, and for that misconduct he did not think him a fit object for immediate discharge. The Commissioner then adjudged the insolvent to an imprisonment of six months.—(Globe.)

"Extract of a letter from Dover, dated yesterday:—Arrived *Le Courier*, French post-office packet, with Prince Czartorinski and family, and about thirty other passengers. Lord Durham left this place for London yesterday, but returns. The arrangements for a daily mail to and from Paris are still under consideration; but it is said will be finally settled in a few days. The point of difficulty seems to be the sea conveyance of the letter bags.—(Sun.)

"A Circular has been addressed from Sir F. Freeling, as Secretary to the Post-office, to some of the leading merchants, to obtain their opinion respecting a new arrangement for conducting the correspondence with France. It is proposed that the writer of a letter to any part of France shall have his choice of three different modes of proceeding to convey it to its destination—1st, he may as at present, pay the English postage;—2d, he may pay here the inland French postage, in addition to the postage now paid in England;—or 3rd, he may send his letter without any payment in England, leaving the whole postage to be paid by the person to whom the letter is addressed in France. A similar mode is, of course, to be adopted for the writers of letters from the other side. The remarkable feature of this, is, that it would render France and England, so far as letters are concerned, one country. It is hailed as a proof of a continuance of the cordial good understanding between the two nations, and is also looked upon as a prelude to the abolition of the vexatious passport system which is found so annoying, so that Englishmen in France and Frenchmen in England, may travel as if both were under the same Government.—(Times.)

JANUARY 31.

At the conclusion of the late extraordinary inquest on Eliza Edwards, the parish authorities of St. Margaret's held a consultation as to the manner in which they should dispose of the body, when it was determined to send it back to Guy's Hospital. It was accordingly forwarded there. The girl who stated herself to be the sister of the deceased has become an inmate of the workhouse. She has been interrogated by the churchwardens and overseers respecting the extraordinary affair. She persisted in denying that she knew the deceased to be other than a female. She is far advanced in pregnancy, and states that the father of her child is a man residing at the west end of the town, in the employ of a harness-maker.—After the inquest several gentlemen applied for permission to view the body, and on being informed that it had been conveyed to Guy's Hospital, they appeared to be much disappointed. One gentleman observed that he knew the party well, and took great delight in hearing him recite, he at the time believing him to be a female. Another said he had played at one of the country theatres with the deceased, who took the leading female tragic characters. The unnatural voice of the deceased was the principal cause of his dismissal from the Norwich Theatre. He was then playing Isabella, in the *Fatal Marriage*, and other principal characters, and on being informed that his engagement was at an end, he complained bitterly at being dismissed because he had a cold. He was also well known to many of the performers of the Coburg and Surrey Theatres, who always considered him to be a female. The public-houses in the vicinity of the above theatres were frequently visited by the deceased, who was, until lately, rather fashionably attired in female apparel. He used occasionally to show off his abilities in theatricals, by reciting numerous passages from various plays, and his reward used to be sundry glasses of liquor. The female who passed for his sister has stated that, some time since, the deceased applied to Covent-garden and Drury-lane for engagements, but was not successful. There were some letters relating to this and other circumstances, but they have been destroyed since the investigation. In the account of the inquests, there is a statement that Edwards had been introduced on the stage by the celebrated Talma. Nothing of the kind appeared at the inquiry in question. The only way in which the name appeared, was in the draft of a letter supposed to have been written by the deceased, in which he said that he had seen M. Talma perform, and the impression then made created his inclination for the stage.—(Herald.)

FEBRUARY 1.

In answer to the rumours of the Marquis of Anglesea having finally quitted Ireland, the *Dublin Times* contains the following:—"The departure of the Marquis of Anglesea for London, for the purpose of taking his seat in the

new Parliament; has given occasion to the *quidnuncs* of the Irish press to exhibit their ignorance by putting forth all sorts of silly rumours respecting his Lordship's abandonment of the Government of Ireland. The industry with which lying rumours of the same description have been so often fabricated, and as often found to be false, make us wonder that any one can still be so gullible as to attach a moment's credence to them. We do not remember a single occasion of Lord Anglesea's absence from Dublin, however short—whether for business or pleasure—that was not seized upon as a fit opportunity for invention. The positiveness with which the rumour of his Lordship's final departure from Ireland has been stated, and the more than usual pertinacity with which it is maintained, induce us to give a full and explicit denial of the statement. The friends of Ireland will rejoice to be assured that his Excellency will return to Ireland, with the proud gratification of being at length enabled, with the assistance of the Government and the reformed Legislature, to carry into effect his wellknown benevolent intentions towards this country.—(Globe.)

In Dublin the Court of King's Bench was crowded on Tuesday, it being understood that the proprietors of the *Comet* newspaper would be brought up for judgment for a libel on the Clergy of the Established Church, of which they had been convicted last term. After some motions had been made, the Attorney-General requested that the defendants be called on their recognizances. Thomas Browne and John Sheehan were then called, and subsequently the names of their sureties were also called by the Clerk of the Crown. After a pause of some minutes, the Attorney-General applied to have the recognizances forfeited, and the Court ordered them to be estrated. At half-past one o'clock the Counsel for the defendants informed the Court that they were then present. Mr. Martineau stated that he was instructed by the Attorney-General to say that he had no objection to waive the proceedings which had taken place in the earlier part of the day. The defendants were then addressed by Mr. Justice Jebb. The Learned Judge stated that having so often before him adverted on libels of the same character, he would not now consume the public time by repeating the same observations. The publication was well designated wicked and malicious, and the abominable object of it was to bring the Clergy into hatred, and involve them in personal danger. This had been, in too many instances, effected, and the lives of the clergy sacrificed. The sentence of the Court was, that each of the defendants pay a fine of £100, and be imprisoned in the gaol of Newgate for twelve months, and at the expiration of that period to give security, themselves in £500 each, and two sureties of £250 each. Counsel for defendants then applied to have the gaol of Kilmainham substituted. Judge Jebb said that it was equally crowded as that of Newgate, and accordingly named the gaol of Wicklow. Mr. Sheehan addressed the Court, and said that it would be ruin to his business to remove him so far from Dublin. Kilmainham was ultimately substituted.—(Courier.)

A court-martial is about to be held upon Lieut. Lamont, R. N. The charges arise out of a conversation at the mess table of the *Briton*, in which the relative merits of the retreat so ably conducted by Sir John Moore, upon Corunna, and the retreat from Burgos under the Duke of Wellington, were discussed, and, in the comparison, some expressions used, which were reported in strong terms by the First Lieutenant, Mr. Patten. So offensive were the epithets applied by the latter officer, that an explanation or disavowal was called for on the part of Lieut. Lamont, and refused, and the circumstances being reported to Cap. Markland, Lieut. Lamont was placed under arrest, to abide the award of a court-martial. The affair has become a very general topic of conversation in the military and naval circles, and the termination of it is looked forward to with considerable interest. Lieut. Lamont is a very young officer, a son of the lately elected member for the city of Wells, and is said to possess talents and spirit of a superior order. Lieut. Patten is an officer of 10 years' standing, and has done duty as First Lieutenant of the *Britannia* about three months. It is expected that the proceedings of this first trial may lead to one, if not two more similar inquiries prior to the *Briton* being put out of commission, for which she is preparing.—(Standard.)

PARIS.—FEB. 4.

The *Berlin State Gazette*, of the 28th ult., has intelligence from St. Petersburg to the 19th:—From official returns, lately published, it appears that the imports of merchandise into the port of St. Petersburg, in 1832, amounted to 159,976,957 rubles. Among the articles imported were gold and silver for 16,000,000; cotton twist 40,000,000; coffee 4,500,000; raw sugar 25,500,000; silks 5,700,000; woollen articles 8,000,000; cotton do. 3,400,000; lines 500,000; wines 7,000,000; spirits 863,000; drugs 893,000 rubles. The total amount of exports was 113,543,825 rubles, namely, hemp for 15,000,000; flax 4,000,000; potash 2500,000; soap 37,650,000; Russia leather 5,000,000; raw hides 2,750,000; iron 7,500,000; copper 5,500,000; linen 6,800,000; corn 5,000,000; ropes 1,000,000; candles 430,000; bristles 5,500,000; etc. The Customs receipts were 52,967,378, whilst in the year 1831 they only amounted to 43,118,367 rubles. On the 1st of January there were to the value of above 40 millions of merchandise in the bonding warehouses which had not yet paid the Customs.

LORD PALMERSTON AND SIR G. STAUNTON.

A dinner was given on Friday by the electors of the southern division of the county of

Southampton to Lord Palmerston and Sir G. Staunton, Bart., in celebration of their return to represent the district in Parliament. The dinner was held at the Assembly-room, Fareham: about 190 sat down. His Lordship sat at the right hand of the Chairman, J. B. Carter, Esq., W. Grant, Esq., Capt. Leeke, R. H. Marsh, Esq., and D. Howard, Esq. Sir G. Staunton took his seat on the left of the Chairman, and was supported by the Rev. J. Hen-ville, J. Guitton, Esq.—Garnier, Esq., G. Atherley, Esq., E. Carter, Esq., and Smith, Esq., W. Spain, Esq. Capt. Burney, R.N., and J. W. C. Walker, Esq., officiated as Vice-presidents on the occasion. A band was stationed in the gallery, which was also destined to accommodate a great number of ladies, who were anxious to witness the proceedings. After the usual loyal toasts, the Chairman gave "The Army and Navy."

Admiral OMMANEY returned thanks, and a call was made on Major Ryan (of the 50th regiment), who said—I was totally unprepared for this call, but as I am aware it is usual on these occasions for a member of the profession which you have complimented to return thanks, I readily obey the call. As a soldier, I hold myself unconnected with politics. I consider those the best men who best serve their King and country. But although I am not disposed to make myself a party in politics, it is an exceedingly gratifying circumstance to observe that the Army and Navy are never omitted to be proposed on all occasions of this kind. I consider a political soldier to be a dangerous individual to the state. I have but just left Ireland, my native country; where agitation to a fearful extent has prevailed, and is even now increasing, but I never witnessed a more loyal and united spirit than that which animates the British army at the present moment. For myself individually, and for my brethren in the army, I return you my sincere thanks.

The CHAIRMAN proposed "the health of Lord Palmerston and Sir G. Staunton, to whom we look for the honest exertions of enlightened legislators."

LORD PALMERSTON, in returning thanks, after expressing his grateful sense of the support they had afforded him, alluded to various speeches and reports which had been put into circulation respecting his political consistency. It has been stated, said his Lordship, that I quitted the administration of the Duke of Wellington during the last year he was in power. It is perhaps, unimportant in itself whether I quitted it one year or another, but the inference is, that I had chosen to secede when his administration was drawing to a close, in order to be in readiness to join the succeeding Government. Now, what is the fact? The administration of the Duke of Wellington began in Jan. 1828, and lasted till Nov. 1830, a period of nearly three years. Now, it would naturally be supposed that I withdrew in 1830. Not so. In 1829? Not so. But in May, 1828, four months after the Duke of Wellington's administration was formed, when his star was still in the ascendant, not yet in the meridian, and when, as far as human foresight could carry prediction, it was probable his administration would last as long as I hope the illustrious Chief, then at its head, will continue to live in happiness and in honour. I left that administration with regret, but I left it of my own accord. With regret, because of the private friendships which my secession severed; but at my own accord, because I found that political opinions, from which I differed, were likely to prevail in the Government. And when, in addition to this, I found, to my sorrow and regret, that, by the sudden and unexpected loss of my late lamented friend Mr. Huskisson, I was left without the means of giving that weight to my opinions to which I thought they were entitled, I deemed it best for myself humbly to tender to my Sovereign the resignation of my office. Gentlemen, having retired from office, what did I do in Parliament? I supported the Government when I thought them right, but I opposed them when I could not conscientiously go with them. When they proposed the Bill for the removal of civil disabilities, I gave them my cordial support; but when I considered the foreign policy which was adopted, inconsistent with the true interests of the country, I as cordially opposed them. And while, on the one hand, I never combated or impeded, by any factious opposition, the regular march of Government, so, on the other, I never held out a flag of parole, or evinced any disposition or wish to return to office. I have thought it right, Gentlemen, to say thus much, because my public character is your property, and because I was anxious to clear myself, in your eyes from an imputation which I do not, in truth, deserve. I will not trespass further on your attention. It is in vain that I endeavoured to convey to you adequately a sense of the pride and gratification which I feel at having been chosen by you in such a manner, at such a time, and for such purposes. I can only say, that, however feebly I may have expressed the sentiments with which I am animated, I will endeavour zealously, diligently, and faithfully to discharge those duties which you have imposed on me, both in the higher sphere of national politics, and in the more humble advocacy of private Bills, which we have heard of, for roads and canals—(Laughter.)—by land or water, in all matters, public or private, whether involving the interest of this country in particular, or of the whole of Europe: and I trust you will not have occasion, on a future day, when reviewing my Parliamentary conduct, to repent you of the confidence with which you have honoured me.

SIR G. STAUNTON returned thanks.

LORD PALMERSTON then introduced the toast of the Electors of South Hants, by a humorous reference to a custom which formerly prevailed at the Dublin theatre. Whenever a new performer appeared, the lads in the gallery always greeted him with a shout of cheers, after which

the cry was, "Now, my lads, let's give three cheers for ourselves." "Now," said his Lordship, "as one of the electors of South Hants, I beg to propose our own very good healths." The toast was drunk with a great deal of good humour, and was followed by the most enthusiastic cheers.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed "the venerable, consistent, and patriotic Earl Grey, and the rest of his Majesty's Ministers, who have given us the charter of 1832."

LORD PALMERSTON returned thanks for the Noble Earl and his Colleagues in office. No reward, said his Lordship, was so dear to public men as the approbation and esteem of their fellow-countrymen. The Noble Lord then entered into a detail of the political career of Earl Grey, and of the triumph which he had at last achieved. He drew a contrast between the happy and contented faces which he had seen that day, and the gloom and discontent which prevailed in the autumn of 1830. It was also a matter of congratulation that the restoration to order and tranquillity from a state of great political excitement had been effected, not by military interference, but by a concession to the just wishes of the people. As to the cry of revolution, it was perfectly true revolution had indeed been effected, and a complete one, in the minds of those who, until lately, opposed every species of reform; but there was not now one man in either House of Parliament who would maintain this absurd opinion. Indeed the very party who were the most determined in their opposition to all reform, would, under particular circumstances, have themselves become the executioners, and have cut away the props of the constitution, if the people would have let them. His lordship then alluded to our foreign politics, and on this subject he observed, "To preserve peace abroad was one of the professed objects of Earl Grey's Government, and in this how has he succeeded? Putting aside the formidable Dutch war, about which so much has been said in this country, and so little any where else, the peace of Europe has fortunately been preserved. But it seems we are too friendly with France? This is, indeed, a curious charge; that the very point by which chiefly peace has been preserved, should be the point on which we have been assailed. The same cordial understanding will continue to exist between France and ourselves, so long, and so long only, as it shall be compatible with each common principle of policy. But, it is curious to notice the tactics of this party. In August, 1831, it is well known, the Dutch army agreed to an armistice, under the cover of which they grew strong and afterwards invaded Belgium. France entered Belgium to repel the invader; but France kept her faith, and after she had done this she went back immediately to France. Now there was a man of considerable knowledge of foreign affairs, a man of talent and discrimination, a man of this country, now the Member of Essex, who stated in Parliament, when the French troops were in Belgium for the purpose I have mentioned, if the British Government succeed in getting the French troops out of Belgium again, it three would be a masterpiece of policy. Now, in weeks after this, the French went out of Belgium; and yet there was no masterpiece of policy; it was the fulfilment of their own good faith. Well, the other day, a convention was signed between England and France, for the purpose of compelling the Dutch to evacuate the Citadel of Antwerp, which they continued to hold in defiance of their own pledge. They did this by way of enticing the Belgians to commence hostilities against them, and then other nations would have been drawn into it. The French were, by this convention, to come forward as European peace-officers. When a French army of 70,000 men entered Belgium for this purpose, 'Oh,' said our adversaries, 'you'll never get the French out again.' Now, it is a notorious fact that, on the very day after the citadel surrendered, the French army began to retire bodily into France, and before ten days not a single French soldier was left in Belgium. Gentlemen, to long as France acts on these principles, she will be a safe and honourable ally, and instead of aspersions being cast on this coalition, as it seems the fashion to use the word just now, we have every reason to desire a continuance of that good feeling and cordial understanding which happily now exists between ourselves and the Government of France." After several other observations, which out limits will not allow us to report, the Noble Lord concluded by thanking them most sincerely for the honour they had done him as one of Lord Grey's Administration.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed "the Members of the Northern Division of Hants, and the electors who so nobly stood by them on that occasion."—Mr. Marsh returned thanks.

Other toasts having been drunk, and the hour of midnight being now passed, the Chairman left the room, accompanied by the Members, and the party separated. Seven hogsheds of beer were distributed in the afternoon to the poorer classes, and, much to the credit of the town, not the slightest disturbance of any kind took place.—*Portsmouth Herald*, Jan. 31.

JAMAICA.

"Jamaica papers have arrived to the 17th Dec; on the 14th the Governor Lord Mulgrave had dissolved the House of Assembly, owing to a collision between that branch of the Legislature and the Council, the former having refused to receive two bills sent down for its concurrence by the latter. His Excellency's speech on the occasion was as follows:—

"Gentlemen of the Council, and of the House of Assembly.—Those considerations of public convenience which might have induced me to postpone for a few days the conclusion of the Session, have

necessarily been superseded by that unfortunate collision between the two branches of the legislature, which renders it hopeless to expect that any further business could now be brought to a satisfactory termination. In taking the only course which is thus left me, I do not think it necessary to make any comment with respect to the question in dispute, further than this, that those who are so ready to assert their own claim to privileges which are not parliamentary, upon the mere plea of undisturbed assumption on their part, would have shown more discretion in not so prematurely and arbitrarily denying to others the right to a privilege which, unless withheld by special provision, belongs as a matter of course, to a legislative body, which likewise appears to have been formerly recognized by the resolutions of the house itself, and which is supported by the undeniable evidence of acts in the journals, which owed their origin to the second branch of the legislature.

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.—I could not but foresee, by the tendency of your very first proceedings, that I might at any time find myself obliged to take the disagreeable step which is this day forced upon me.—When inflammatory topics were wantonly introduced in your first address to me, it was impossible to calculate how soon the most conciliatory intentions might be diverted from their original direction, by an imperious sense of duty. In continuation of the same line of conduct, you thought proper afterwards to place certain resolutions upon your journals on the subject of your address and my reply. As those resolutions were not communicated to me by message, I thought that, acting upon the intention I expressed, under any provocation, steadily to pursue the course which I conceived to be for the benefit of the colony, I might avoid taking immediate notice of it, and allow the public business to proceed to its close; and to this determination I should have adhered but for this difference between you and the other branch of the legislature with which I have myself no direct concern; but I cannot dismiss you from your attendance here, without noticing a resolution in which you stated that a doctrine advanced by me was subversive of your acknowledged rights, and dangerous to your lives and properties. The doctrine you have thought fit to stigmatize is not mine. It is one laid down by every constitutional lawyer. It is maintained by the practice of your own courts. It has uniformly been asserted in official communications with my predecessors, by all successive advisers of the crown, under very different administrations. When you speak, therefore, of your acknowledged rights I am at a loss to conceive by whom and when those rights which you now assume were ever acknowledged. The right of the imperial parliament of legislating for all his Majesty's subjects when it so thinks fit, is inherent in that body, and has never been abandoned except as regards internal taxation. The 18th of Geo. the Third, which makes that exception, proves the general right of legislating over the colonies. You must always recollect that I never originated this discussion: The question is of your own raising—the dispute of your own seeking—the provocation was given entirely by you, and with you must its consequences rest. When you assert a perfect equality with your fellow-subjects in other parts of his Majesty's dominions, there is no doubt that, as individuals, you are all equal in the eye of the law. But this is not an independent kingdom; and as a legislature, we, who are here assembled, are not equal to the Imperial Parliament, consisting of the three estates of the realm—King, Lords, and Commons. It is indeed most unfortunate for a fair consideration of your interests, that such a question should have been so inopportunistically brought forward. It is not by the vehemence of your denial that you can negative the existence of the right, but by the moderation of your conduct that you might for ever avert its exercise. Should such interference ever take place, it would not be for any vain display of selfish superiority, but in the furtherance of measures, to the ultimate accomplishment of which the Parliament of Great Britain is pledged, and which experience should have shown, that the legislatures of the colonies would not themselves adopt. I must now thank you for these portions of the annual supplies which you have already voted. Your task has, in this respect, been much lightened by the liberality of the British government, in taking upon itself the payment of his Majesty's troops during the present year. I am sure that the people of this colony will not be insensible to the double obligation which they owe to the paternal care of their Sovereign, in having, at the same time increased the numbers of the garrison, and relieved you from the charge of its subsistence, showing equal solicitude for your safety and sympathy for your distresses. At the same time I must say, that on your side you might have considered that the moments of difficulty and danger, the adequate protection of an armed force is hardly more important than the efficient administration of criminal justice; and I therefore particularly regret, that at such a moment your next act should have been the refusal of any provision whatever to the Chief Justice of the island, who had been appointed by your Sovereign. I have no intention of enumerating the other instances in which you have disappointed my expectations; so much of your conduct appears to court that crisis which is now arrived, that you cannot be surprised when I announce to you that it is not my intention again to call together the present House of Assembly. As soon as the circumstances of the present season render it expedient, I shall appeal to an enlarged constituency. The liberality of that enactment which did away with all distinctions of colour I duly appreciate. I have no doubt that the nearly enfranchised freeholders will show they deserve the trust reposed in them, and that in its exercise there will be no more emulation on all sides than a desire to prove the soundness and moderation of their principles, the extent and devotion of their loyalty.

"Gentlemen of the Council, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.—You are now about to return to your homes, at a moment which after the experience of last year, it is impossible not to feel to be one of some anxiety. I have myself no apprehension that any persons will be found misguided enough again to brave the penalties of rebellion. I have the greatest confidence in the efficiency of the measures taken for the immediate suppression of any such attempt. But as the representative of my Sovereign, speak his sentiments when I express, through you, to the slave population, that solicitous as his Majesty always is for their welfare, any criminal endeavours on their parts to wrest from their masters, advantages to which they have no legal claim, can have no other effect than to draw down upon them the severest punishment. For myself I can assure you, that no personal exertion shall be wanting on my part to extend to you at all times, in the most prompt and rigorous manner, that protection which it is the duty of my office to afford. On your part, I must that forgetting all

minor differences which may have occurred between you, you will unite cordially in one common feeling, of the permanent obligation of preserving the peace and tranquillity of the country. I now dissolve this General Assembly, and it is hereby dissolved accordingly."

A meeting of the Members of the late House of Assembly was held in Spanish Town the day after the dissolution, at which a memorial to his Majesty was drawn up and approved of. The nature of it had not transpired, and a good deal of excitement appeared to prevail in the island.—*Globe*, January 30.

AMERICAN PAPERS.

We have received New York journals to the 28th ult., which contain news from South Carolina to the 18th. The following is the report given in these papers of the proceedings of the Legislature of South Carolina, on the subject of the opposition to the General Congress. The reader will see that the reporters are less skillful than in England; but we have preferred adhering literally to the text, to venturing upon any alteration.

"HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Dec. 15. 'The house proceeded to read a third time' a bill to carry into effect the ordinance of nullification. Some minor amendments were agreed to. The senate had stricken from the bill as amended in the house, that portion of the second section which empowers the Sheriff to break open doors; the question, will the house agree? was decided in the negative. The bill passed, and ordered to the senate. A bill to change the name of the Jackson Guards, and to incorporate the same, was passed, and sent to the senate.

"Mr. Preston, from the committee on federal relations, introduced a bill to carry into effect in part, the ordinance to nullify certain acts of the Congress, read a first time. This bill requires all civil officers, before they shall sit on the trial of cases growing out of the existing differences between the general government and the state, or where there shall be called in question the validity of the acts of Congress for laying duties and imposts on the importation of foreign commodities, or the validity of the acts of the legislature, by virtue of the authority contained in the ordinance of the convention, to take an oath to enforce the provisions of the ordinance, and the acts to carry it into effect.

"Mr. McCord gave notice that on Monday he will introduce a bill, rendering it felony without benefit of clergy, for any inhabitant of this state to be taken in arms against the state.

"In the senate the report of the military committee on a bill to provide for the security and protection of the state of South Carolina, made the special order for to-day, was postponed. A resolution was offered to direct the suspension of the payment of all pensions until otherwise ordered by the legislature; and that the Governor be authorised to correspond with the Department of War, to have all the pensioners of the state transferred to the pension list of the United States. Referred to the committee on pensions.

"Dec. 17. Mr. Preston moved to suspend the orders of the day, that he might submit 'a most important and extraordinary document transmitted to him by a senator in Congress.' The document referred to is the proclamation. Mr. Preston introduced the following preamble and resolution which was passed:—Whereas the President of the United States has issued his proclamation, denouncing the proceedings of this state, calling upon the citizens to renounce their primary allegiance and threatening them with military coercion, unwarranted by the constitution, and utterly inconsistent with the existence of a free state: Be it therefore resolved, that his Excellency the Governor be requested forthwith to issue his proclamation warning the good people of this state against the attempt of the President of the United States, to induce them from their allegiance; exhorting them to disregard his vain menaces, and to be prepared to sustain the dignity and protect the liberty of the state against the arbitrary measures proposed by the President.

"A gentleman then asked the reading of the proclamation, Mr. W. P. Finle rose and went through it. The house listened with marked indignation. At the passage where the President calls us 'his children,' and talks to the state 'like a father' there was a general laugh. Messrs. R. Barnwell, Smith, Isaac Holmes, and F. Pickens, successively rose, and expressed, with great eloquence and spirit, views of equal detestation and contempt against the proceeding. Mr. Smith insisted that as it breathed the very worst doctrines of consideration, and called in the most violent methods of enforcing them, and more especially as it held even the tyrannical doctrine that we had not even the right to secede, all men, of all parties, must refuse to sanction it by their votes. He called, therefore, for the yeas and nays. They were taken. Yeas, 90; nays, 24—every Union-man voting against the resolution.

"Mr. Player submitted a resolution requiring the Judges of Appeal Court, the Judges of Common Pleas and Sessions, and the Chancellors, to take an oath to support the ordinance of nullification before the Governor previous to Feb. 1, which was referred to the committee on federal relations.

"A message was received from the senate, informing the house that the senate adhered to the amendments made by them to the act to carry into effect in part, the ordinance of nullification. The house refused to recede, and a committee of conference was appointed.

"The bill to raise supplies for 1833 was then taken up, received a second reading, and ordered to the senate. The bill imposes 30 cents *ad valorem* on every 100 dol. worth of land, 60 cents a head on slaves, 2 dol. on free negroes, 5 dol. per day on stage plays and shows, 30 cents *ad valorem* on 100 dol. on town and village lots and houses, 2,000 dol. for the year on the vendors of lottery tickets, 60 cents on employments and professions. United States' Bank Stock is not to be taxed.

"The bill for making appropriations was taken up, received a second reading, and ordered to the senate. The bill appropriates 200,000 dol. for the purchase of arms, ammunition, etc., and for the support of the citadel and magazine guard, to be expended under direction of the Governor.

"Mr. McCord brought in a bill providing for the punishment of any inhabitant found in arms against the state. The bill provides that if any inhabitant be found in arms against the state, or in opposing the ordinance of nullification; or any law entered in obedience thereto, he shall be guilty of felony, and suffer death without benefit of clergy.

"Dec. 18.—In the senate, the bill to provide for the security of the state citadel, and the bill to raise supplies for 1833, were passed, and ordered to the house. In the house, the military bill, as amended

in the senate, was passed. The bill declaring it felony for any inhabitant of the state to be found in arms against the state was laid on the table. On the second reading of the bill relative to the test oath, amendments were adopted, providing that the oath should not be administered to judges and other civil officers, nor to the military, until they should be called on to enforce the ordinance. In this shape the bill was passed and sent to the senate.—The committee on federal relations had not made their report on the president's proclamation. It is stated that Governor Haynes was preparing his counter-proclamation."

The organ of the nullifiers, the *Charleston Mercury*, speaks as follows:—"Andrew Jackson's proclamation.—The declaration of war made by Andrew Jackson against the State of South Carolina, will be read with the feelings which so extraordinary a document is calculated to excite. This unhappy old man has been suffered by his advisers to arrogate to himself the power to correct a state of the Confederacy. He has issued the edict of a dictator, an edict which time will prove whether he dares or can enforce. He has attempted in this proclamation to intimidate the Whigs of South Carolina by threats, and to encourage and foment insurrection and violence on the part of the internal enemies of the state. The document has been received here, and greeted with the indignation and contempt which it merits. In every free man worthy of the name, it has excited no other feelings but those of defiance and scorn."

The subjoined letter is from a correspondent in Washington, dated Dec. 24:—"To so fearful a crisis have our affairs arrived, that members of both houses, and of all parties, do not hesitate to say openly in debate, that the Union is in danger. Rumours of awful portent are in daily circulation, fearfully reminding us of the approach of some great political convulsion. It is said, that orders have been issued to immediately fit out for sea the new sloop of war lately launched here, and to launch and fit for sea the big ship built at Philadelphia; and that additional hands have been employed at our arsenal and navy yard, to hasten the preparation of gun-carriages, etc. Orders have been given not to suspend the labour of the public artisans on to-morrow (Christmas day)."

In Columbia, volunteers from that adjoining Southern State are daily offering their services to the Governor and his predecessor, to aid South Carolina, in case any warlike measures should be adopted by the Federal Government, for the purpose of forcing this state into submission. Five companies of artillery, which were ordered from the fortress of Munroe to Charleston, have all embarked on board the ship *Jefferson*, fully equipped, with all their ordnance, stores, and provisions for three months, and will sail the first fair wind. They are commanded by Major Kirby.

The following document proves that, notwithstanding the violence of opinion that exists, there is a sound and redeeming spirit broadly diffused through the state; and that the career of the disorganisers will not proceed unchecked even in their own domains:—

REMONSTRANCE AND PROTEST OF THE UNION PARTY.

"The Union and State Rights Party of South Carolina, assembled in Convention, remonstrate and solemnly protest against the ordinance passed by the State Convention on 24th November last,—1. Because the people of South Carolina elected delegates to the said convention under the solemn assurance that these delegates would do no more than devise a peaceable and constitutional remedy for the evils of the protective tariff, without endangering the union of these states; instead of which, that convention has passed an ordinance in direct violation of all these pledges.—2. Because the said ordinance has insidiously assailed one of the inalienable rights of man, by endeavouring to enslave all freedom of conscience by that tyrannical engine of power—a test oath.—3. Because it has disfranchised and proscribed nearly one-half of the freemen of South Carolina for an honest difference of opinion, by declaring that those whose consciences will not permit them to take the test-oath, shall be deprived of every office, civil and military.—4. Because it has trampled under foot the great principles of liberty secured to the citizen by the constitution of this state, in depriving the freedom of this country of the right to an impartial trial by jury, thereby violating that clause of the constitution, intended to be perpetual, which declares that 'the trial by jury as heretofore used in this state, and the liberty of the press, shall be for ever inviolably preserved'.—5. Because it has violated the independence guaranteed to the judiciary, by enacting that the judges shall take a revolting test-oath, or be arbitrarily removed from office; thereby depriving them of the privilege of trial by impeachment, which by the constitution of the state, is intended to be secured to every civil officer.—6. Because the ordinance has directly violated the constitution of the United States, which gives authority to Congress to collect revenue within the limits of South Carolina.—7. Because it has violated the same constitution in that provision which declares that no reference may be given to one part over any other in the United States, by enacting that goods shall be imported into the ports of South Carolina without paying any duties.—8. Because it violates the same constitution, and tramples upon the rights of the citizen, by denying him the privilege of appeal in cases in law and equity arising under the constitution and laws of the Union.—9. Because it has virtually destroyed the Union, by carefully preventing the general Government from enforcing their laws through the civil tribunals of the country and then enacting that if that Government should pursue any other mode to enforce them, then this state shall be no longer a member of the Union.—10. Because the tyranny and oppression inflicted by this ordinance are of a character so revolting, and the effects anticipated from it so ruinous, that the commerce and the credit of the state are already sensibly affected, and will soon be prostrated; and its peaceable and industrious citizens are driven from their homes to seek tranquillity in some other state. The Union party of South Carolina, in convention assembled, do further remonstrate and solemnly protest against the project of a standing army, proposed by the party in power, as dangerous to the liberties of the people. They would respectfully ask their fellow-citizens,

be confessedly on party against States, should at other object, than to serve their fellow-citizens protest against oppression, to force the pains and penalties which the State, its nature, and of danger to the State, by demonstrating, above-mentioned, further express the principles of their conduct; and will continue their protective tariffs, so, driven from the rights which by a citizen. Dislawless or insurrectional their duty, by all legal and doing so they will of peaceable citizen aside by into-

Vice-Presidents.

ember, 1832, and in the of the United STATES. HENRY, "convention."

RANCE, AND

om and principles the world, though opposition, or may be overpowered by which destroys prejudice only con- the circle of their particularly applica commercial code- ner, been dignified trade-system," but of a relaxation of of our commercial

prise of England, of our laws, and Government, had car- of grandeur and impolitic mona- tions, the mass of ed not analyze the ed our success to was to retard it, ple to their own prohibited several the professed ob- labour, France avied our prospe- absurd system of Hence, our other- the Channel, having compelled from the under it, to con- its roly, and ence, they still per- stroot in the mother colonies cannot sup- in sufficient abun- because they are said colonies from tive duties. Hence, iron with the ex- with a small supply of ed the maxim from ary to protect their looking at the list of is for the last year, erting of manufactur- orted, out of an a- w material or other articles of about ricial intercourse with constitutes the beau- ng our exclusionists, of the same fact. is country are esti- 7,694 francs, or less and their exports to francs, or more than

emies of "free trade" able of all systems for prosperity, when we sion that it is better ar from beetroot at lace of the West In- ad of better quality, is preferable to use on than to exchange ace with England for t, where they could of that price. If they ey will probably not e policy of manufac- ase grapes, in order to stry, and to render Bordeaux or Oporto. m that they will be vocracy of these doc- rmer adepts of their

atesmen of all differ- e time seen and la- erial error in which, from the magnitude which have grown up ge the difficulty of an e Villele, though, to planters of Martinique ed the protecting du-

ties on sugar, never failed in theory to denounce the exclusive system of his country, and was anxious to relax its severity. Under the Ministry of his successor, M. de Martignac, considerable progress was made towards an amelioration. A commission was appointed by M. St. Cricq, then at the head of the French Board of Trade, to inquire into the state of the iron and sugar trade, and to suggest the improvements of which they were susceptible. This commission published two most valuable reports (*l'Enquête sur les Fers, et l'Enquête sur les Sucres*), which recommended a gradual reduction of duty. In that commission we find the name of Mr. Humann, who was then in opposition, but who is now Minister of Finance. The knowledge which he brought with him into that inquiry, or which he obtained during its progress, has, we are happy to perceive, not been lost to the world, as it has already influenced his official conduct. In presenting the budget, a few days ago, he announced that "the legislation of the *Douanes* (or customs) was about to receive important modifications, deserving of the most serious attention of the Chamber." These modifications, we are afterwards told, will consist in substituting taxes for prohibitions, and thus enriching the Treasury by protective duties, instead of encouraging fraud by the premiums of smuggling.

The French Government, in applying to the trade of France the enlightened principle announced in the speech of this Minister, intend to display a liberality which, though destined in the first instance to benefit their own country, cannot fail to be beneficial to England. They intend to propose to the Chambers the admission, on moderate duties, of cotton-twist and some other articles of English manufacture which were formerly entirely prohibited. They will even go further, and, as if to answer our silk manufacturers, who contend that they cannot rival the silk fabrics of Lyons because France prohibits the export of the raw material best adapted for the finer kinds of work, they mean to abolish that prohibition likewise.

Such, no doubt, has been the fruit of our enlightened example, and of the growing desire on the part of our neighbours to reciprocate advantages which promise to be the result of a more enlarged intercourse. We cannot pay the present French Ministers so bad a compliment as to suppose that they would be guided in these prospective measures by any view to the promotion of British interests. In relaxing our own system for the admission of silk on protective duties, and in reducing the tax on French wine, our Government—whatever its knavish revilers might say—acted exclusively with the intention of serving their own country. We give credit to the French Government for the same feeling, though we rejoice in its enlightened and beneficial direction.

It is gratifying to find, that though partial interests often obstruct beneficial changes, some of the best informed and most wealthy of the commercial and manufacturing body in France are prepared to second the liberal views of their Government. In this respect we have again an agreeable parallel in France to the progress of enlightened principles in England, and beg to present the petition of the silk-manufacturers of Lyons, in another column, as no unworthy pendant to the London petition so ably and triumphantly introduced by Mr. Baring to the House of Commons in 1830; for let it be understood that our sense of justice will always induce us to give deserved praise even to an enemy. We only hope that the Deputy for Lyons will not, like the English Deputy, think it necessary to change sides when his speech has produced its effect on the conviction of his hearers.

CHURCH REFORM.

We have heard, on authority to which we are disposed to give credit, besides being influenced by the rationality of the thing, that the Dean and Chapter of Ely have recently introduced some very great changes in their establishment. We have not yet, however, been informed precisely what they are, though we understand that one has been added to the number of Minor Canons, and that the salary of each has been increased from 70*l.* to something above 200*l.* per annum. We learn also that they have now several bedesmen, to each of whom are to be paid between 6*l.* and 7*l.* per annum. We shall only say that we shall be happy to obtain a fuller and more particular account of this first self-originated (if so we may call it) measure of cathedral reform! Would it had taken place sooner. Those who are at once the authors and the objects of it may have reason to fear that it has come too late. However, they deserve credit with their countrymen.

But we see no simultaneous or consecutive movements with those of the Dean and Chapter of Ely among their brethren of other cathedrals. Lincoln's Dean and Chapter has been named to us as an establishment of exquisite inutilty and vicious conduct. We have before had dealings with the Pretymans, the Thynnes, the Bayleys, of that foundation; the two latter of whom negotiated a kind of job or swop of a stall in Lincoln against one in Westminster; the latter person also being, we believe, or having once been, an Archdeacon.

But still we could not have conceived all that we have heard from an highly respectable correspondent respecting this Dean and Chapter. They are the patrons of a number of very small livings in the city or neighbourhood of Lincoln, and never has it been heard that they augmented one of these, though in many cases they are the improprators of the tithes. A few years ago there were enclosures in several parishes, by none of which was the vicar or perpetual curate suffered to gain a six-pence. The allotments so land universally went to the

Precentor or one of the four Residentiaries, and the wretched incumbents of the several churches were left to starve. And what do the public think might be the value of the poor benefices thus robbed? Not one of them, we are assured, is even now more than 100*l.* a-year. The consequence is, that some of them are served only once a fortnight. Here is a proper observance of the Sabbath! In many cases one incumbent serves his own with two and even three others; such is the day of sacred rest! Have the Commissioners of Ecclesiastical Inquiry these facts before them? and if they have, will they not make a report which shall rectify them immediately? But Westminster is, we believe, a place meriting peculiar notice, and on this we hope to obtain some important information.—*Times*, Dec. 8.

FASHIONABLE SHOP-LIFTERS.

ROBBERY, AT CROCKFORD'S BAZAAR.—Monday last a statement appeared in most of the Daily Papers, detailing the circumstances of a robbery, presumed to be committed by some ladies of high respectability, under pretence of purchasing articles at a standing in Crockford's Bazaar, in St. James's-street. The parties were permitted to depart, but their carriage was watched to their residence near Richmond, and in consequence of the circumstance becoming known to the owner of the property purloined, he went on Wednesday to Marlborough-street Office, accompanied by a solicitor, named Carlos, and his own shop-woman, and applied to Messrs. Dyer and Conant, the Magistrates, for a warrant to apprehend the presumed offenders.

Mr. DYER remarked, it was impossible to state too broadly the principle which, in his judgement, ought to govern Magistrates in all felonious matters—that whatever the rank or consequence of the party accused, such circumstances ought not to shelter their conduct from inquiry; and therefore, if such evidence was laid before him as to lead him to believe an offence had been committed, he should not for one moment hesitate in the performance of his duty.

The Solicitor then proceeded to call the following evidence, on which he grounded his application for a warrant:—

Margaret Findlay sworn and examined, stated, I am in the service of Mr. Downes, a jeweller, in Upper High-street, Islington, who has a stand in the St. James's-street Bazaar, which I superintend. On Friday week, the 9th of November, three ladies apparently mother and daughters, came into the bazaar; the two youngest came upstairs to my stand, and one of the young ladies requested to be shown a box clasp which, in order to obtain, I was obliged to go to the further end of the stand. I suited them with the article, and while they were making the purchase, the two young ladies requested to be shown a gold seal and a gold locket, which I gave into their hands to inspect. After they had quitted the counter I missed both those articles, and in order to be quite certain I had not mislaid them, I made a strict search, in which I was assisted by two or three of the Bazaar young ladies, who were informed of the loss. Not being able to find the articles, I went down stairs, and saw the young ladies at another jeweller's stand, one of whom I accosted and requested to know if the seal and locket had not accidentally stuck to the fringe of their shawls. They complied, and shook their shawls and afterwards examined their reticules at my request, without discovering anything. Feeling at a loss what course to adopt, I applied to the Inspector, Mrs. Johnson, who requested the young ladies would accompany her up stairs which they immediately did, and in two or three minutes after they came back to my stand I found the seal and locket placed on some black ornaments which were on the counter. I am quite positive they were not there before the young ladies came up the second time. I was very much agitated at the occurrence; and having stated that I had missed another seal in a few moments after the first discovery, I found it on the other side of the counter. The young ladies were standing close by the places where all the articles were found, at the time when they were brought up stairs the second time. Two officers then came up, one of whom saw one of the young ladies put the last seal on the counter, and who requested that they would walk down stairs. I do not know what took place with them afterwards, but, upon proceeding to count the stock of pins, I missed two of them, which were afterwards shown to me, as having been taken from a pocket behind one of the young ladies by the inspector. All the articles were done up in a parcel, and placed in the hands of Mr. Crockford, jun. I do not know their names, nor did I see their card; I only know they were carriage people. The two young ladies were the only customers I had during the day. There was no crowd at all about my stand when they purchased the box clasp.

The SOLICITOR then said the name of the ladies was Turton, and that they resided at East Sheen.

Margaret Findlay, on being questioned further, said the elder lady did not come to her stall, and neither of the young ladies made any observation when the seals were found; she however, had heard that when they were searched, and the pins found, they had offered to pay for the articles.

Clement, an officer of this establishment, said he was ordered to follow the ladies when they entered their equipage, which was a very handsome one, and he then jumped into a cab, and after he saw them set down at their residence in East Sheen, he called and saw the butler, who stated that the ladies resided there. The parties then retired to the Clerk's Office, and a

warrant was made out. The value of the articles stolen was stated to be about three guineas.

Shortly after the parties retired, and the warrant had been placed in the hands of Goddard, the officer, to execute, he called upon Mr. Downes to appoint some person to go down with him to East Sheen to identify the parties; but both Mr. Downes and Miss Findlay declined. Mr. Downes was, in consequence, again called before the Magistrate, when he said he could not persuade Miss Findlay to go. He admitted he had been down on Tuesday evening to apprehend Mr. Turton of his intention to take out the warrant, not wishing that he should be taken by surprise; and here the matter rested, Mr. Downes quitting the office, leaving the warrant in Goddard's hands. Thus it would seem the "rich sinners" are to escape, while a poor creature who, perhaps, acted from the impulse of starvation, could have been severely punished. This case affords a fresh proof of the necessity of appointing a public prosecutor to see that justice was done in all criminal cases. Such a person would have compelled Mr. Downes and his shopwoman to have done their duty. If innocent, the parties accused would have come voluntarily forward without compulsion.—*Bell's Life, in London Nov. 25.*

A WET FIELD-DAY WITH THE YEOMANRY.

We set out from Ashford at ten, and was two hours getting to Bumper-Daggle Bottom Common, but it's full six mile. The Bumper Daggle's dress is rather handsome and fighting like—blue, having a turn-up with white, and we might have been called cap-a-pee, but Mr. P. the contractor of our caps, made them all too small for our heads. Luckily the clothes fit, except Mr. Lambert's, who could not find a jacket big enough, but he scorned to shrink, and wore it loose on his shoulder, like a hussar. As for arms, we had all sorts, and as regards horses, I am sorry to say all sorts of legs—what with splints, and quitters, and ring-bone, grease. The major's, I noticed, had a bad spavin, and was no better for being fired with a ramrod, which old Clinker the blacksmith forgot to take out of his piece. We mustered, very strong,—about sixty—besides two volunteers, one an invalid, because he had been ordered to ride for exercise, and the other, because he had nothing else to do, and he did nothing when he came. We must have been a disagreeable site to eyes as is uneffected towards government,—though how Hopper's horse would behave in putting down riots I can't guess, for he did nothing but make revolutions himself, as if he was still in the thrashing mill. But you know yomanry ain't reglers, and can't be expected to be veterans all at once. The worst of our mistakes was about the cullers. Old Ensign Cob, of the White Horse, has a Political Union club what meets at his house, and when he came to unfurl, he found he had brought the wrong flag: instead of 'Royal Bumper Daggle,' it was 'No Boshmongers.' It made a regular horse laugh among the cavalry, and Old Cobb took such Dudgeon at us, he deserted home to the White Horse, and cut the concern without drawing a sword. The captain ordered Jack Blower to sound the recall to him, but sum wag on the route had stuck a bung up his trumpet; and he galloped off just as crusty about it as Old Cobb. Our next trouble was with Simkin, but you know he is any thing but Simkin and Martial. He rid one of his own dock a waggon-horses—but for appearance-sake had tied on a long regulation false tale, that made his horse kick astonishing till his four loose shoes flew off like a game at koits. Of course nobody liked to stand nigh him—and he was obliged to be drawn up in single order by himself, but not having any one to talk to, he soon got weary of it, and left the ground. This was some excuse for him—but not for Dale, that deserted from his company,—some said his horse bolted with him, but I'll swear I seed him spur. Up to this we had only one more deserter, and that was Marks, on his iron-grey mare: for she heard her foal whinnying at home, and attended to that call more than to a deaf and dumb trumpet. Briggs didn't come at all; he had his nag stole that very morning, as it was waiting for him, pistols and all.—We got thro' sword exercise decent well—only Barber shaved Crofts' mare with his saber, which he needn't have done, as she was clipt before; and Holdsworth slashed off his cob's off ear. It was cut and run with her in course: and I hope he got safe home. We don't know what Hawksley might have thrust, as his sword objected to be called out in wet weather, and stuck to his sheath like pitch; but he went through all the cuts very correct with his umbrella. For my own part candour compels me to state I wished off my left man's feather, but though it might have been worse, and I apologized as well as I could for my horse fretting, he was foolish enough to huff at, and swear it was done on purpose, and so galloped home, I suspect, to write me a calling out challenge. Challenge or not, if I fight him with any thing but fists, I'm not one of the yomanry. An accident's an accident, and much more pardonable than Hawksley opening his umbrella plump in the face of the Captain's blood charger; and ten times more mortifying for an officer to be carried back willy-nilly to Ashford, in the very middle of the review. Luckily before Hawksley frightened any more, he was called off to hold his umbrella over Mrs. H., and Mrs. Morgan had taken in nine ladies, and couldn't accommodate more in her close carriage, without making it too close.—After sword exercise we shot pistols, and I must say, very well and distinct, only, old Dunn didn't fire; but he's deaf as a post, and I wonder how he was called out.—*Hood's Comic Annual.*